Conference on Malnutrition

974. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference on nutrition is likely to be convened in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to tackle the menace of malnutrition especially among poorer sections of people in the country and people living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Research on Nutrition Support System, New Delhi in collaboration with the Indian Society for Parenteral and Internal Nutrition (ISPEN), Delhi Chapter is organising VIth Annual Conference on Nutrition on 14-15 March, 2000 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

(c) The Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 which advocated a multi-sectoral approach for controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving nutrition of the people. The National Nutrition Poplicy contains both short term/direct interventions and long-term/indirect interventions. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition was developed to serve as a framework for translating the instruments of Nutrition Policy. This Plan identified the role of 14 Departments/Ministries of the Government towards nutrition promotion.

Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population especially of the poor are:—

* Increased agricultural production;
* Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
* Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;

* Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding;

* Supplementary feeding programmes viz (i) integrated child development services (ICDS) scheme; (ii) special nutrition programme (SNP); (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP); (iv) wheat based supplementary nuitrition programme; (v) midday meal programme etc.

In addition, Programme for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; Prophylaxis programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Pilot Project for control of micronutrient malnutrition are also under implementation.

National T. B. Control Programme

975. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy to control TB and the details of activities undertaken under the National TB Control Programme in the country;

(b) the number of TB cases reported, treated, cured, district-wise or hospital-wise in Orissa and extent of financial assistance/ allocations made to them during the last two years;

(c) whether the WHO has recently opined that funds are not being given to such institutions and are remaining unspent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) To control TB, National TB Control Programme was launched in the country in 1962. The programme is integrated with Primary Health